

REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 19 to reflect the features discussed with regard to, for example, Figure 2A: the master disk (coated with photoresist) is laser imaged to form bumps in region 200. As discussed on page 11, lines 22-25, these bumps correspond to a read-only (ROM) portion of the resulting disk. Similarly, grooves 204 will correspond to a writeable (RAM) portion. Note what is thus produced: a first-surface disk having both ROM and RAM portions by depositing a phase-change layer over both bumps and the lands in the resulting mother-stamped disk. This is a fundamental improvement in ROM/RAM disk combinations. In general, such disks are awkward affairs – for example, consider the typical ROM DVD which is formed by depositing a reflective layer over a stamped substrate. In contrast, a RAM disk such as a DVD-R disk requires an information layer to absorb rather than reflect light. Applicants' first-surface disk solved these conflicting requirements between ROM and RAM portions (which in the prior art required expensive masking steps to separately form the ROM and RAM portions) such that by merely covering the stamped substrate with the phase-change layer and the dielectric layer, a ROM/RAM combination disk is easily and economically formed.

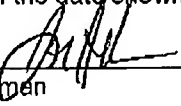
Claim 1 has been amended to reflect these features (because claim 1 has been amended to note that not only lands but also a ROM portion is formed, claim 14 has been cancelled). In light of this amendment, the rejections over the Edwards, Pan and JP references are mooted because these reference make absolutely no teaching for such an advantageous ROM/RAM disk let alone the enhanced contrast set forth in claim 1 for such a disk. Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over these cited prior art references. Claim 19 has been amended analogously, thereby leading to the cancellation of claim 24. Thus, claim 19 is also in condition for allowance. The remaining pending claims are allowable through their respective dependence on these independent claims.

Applicants respectfully note that it was rather prejudicial to be issued a final rejection over a reference (JP 3-86943) for which no translation has been provided. Indeed, Applicants noted in their last response that MPEP 706.02 II.

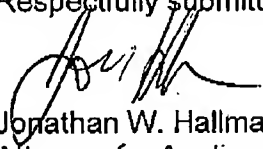
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notes that if "the document is in a language other than English and the examiner seeks to rely on that document, a translation must be obtained so that the record is clear as to the precise facts the examiner in relying in support of the rejection." (emphasis added). Despite this mandate, the reference was again cited and the rejection made final to boot.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (571 - 273 - 8300) on the date shown below.	
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Respectfully submitted,


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